

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 29, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

October 31	Bowling Outing
November 1	Outdoor Ed Forms Due
November 27-28	Outdoor Ed Trip

Dear Families,

Please sure to return the Outdoor Ed permission slip and health form as soon as possible.

Scavenger Hunt at Whole Foods – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1 ONLY!

On Thursday, November 1, Whole Foods is donating 5% of sales to the Irving Schoolyard Project. To support this effort over 30 teachers and staff from all District 97 schools volunteered to have their pictures placed in Whole Foods near their favorite food. You can find them! Go on a scavenger hunt to find them while also shopping to help the ISP! Get the full list of teachers when you come in the door, write down their favorite food when you find their picture, and enter the raffle to win a gift card from Whole Foods Market! If time is an issue, please consider using their personal shopper (fee waived this day). All you do is place an order at least 48 hours in advance by emailing mw.rvf.marketing@wholefoods.com or calling 708.366.1045 (ask for Concierge Lauren) and then pick up your fulfilled order that day at a time specified by YOU! So head out to Whole Foods Market in River Forest on Thursday November 1.

Art - We are learning about Surrealism. We have looked at the artwork of Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and photographer Jerry Uelsmann. Surrealism juxtaposes everyday, common things in unusual and surprising ways. We are creating surreal collage self-portraits. We began by tracing and cutting out our silhouette in profile and using old magazines and discarded encyclopedia's, we are creating a surreal collage.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org. **NEW INFORMATION! If your child does not have their recorder in class they will be given a loaner recorder for the day. Please email Mrs. Karia if you want more information.**

Chorus- Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders will have a listening and reading comprehension quiz this week on the story *Montaña Hamburguesa*. We will learning about the voting and the election process in español next! Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - We just finished booktalks for the Rebecca Caudill nominees for 2013. Take a look at <http://www.rcyrba.org/> for a list of the nominees, and get reading! Read/listen to three books to be eligible to vote in February, and to nominate a book for next year's list. Speaking of reading...READINGG OLYMPIANS will have a mandatory meeting this Friday, November 2 at 11:35 in the library. We will check in and see how reading is going, as the competition is on Tuesday, November 20. Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

Last week, we finished our unit on Courage. Throughout this week, the students will be working on the unit test. Students will also be doing workshop as usual. The past few weeks we have also been practicing how to write a response to a question using specific details from the text to explain and support their answers. This week, students will work independently to read The Shot Heard Around the World and answer the question "Why did the colonists begin to fight for independence from Great Britain?"

We will have our final literature circle discussion around the book, The Breadwinner on **Wednesday, October 17**. Students are expected to have finished the book and completed their role sheets and quality questions before the discussion. Students who work with Ms. Circo meet to discuss their week's reading each Monday.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week.

Math

Graded Unit 4 tests will be returned to students by Wednesday. Each student must complete a Unit 4 Self-Assessment. Please review both the unit test and the Self-Assessment with your child, and sign the Self-Assessment. Students who return the signed Self-Assessment by Friday will earn 5 Guilders.

This week, we will spend a few days working with data. We will have a few activities in which we collect data, display data in tables and graphs, and determine statistical landmarks of data sets. Although we will spend only this week on data, we will continue to use data skills throughout the year in Science class. Next week, we will begin a lengthy unit on fractions.

Science

This week, we are continuing our investigation of energy in the home and at school. Students have completed floorplans of a room at home and have conducted energy audits in the school. This week they will learn how to read electric and gas meters. They will then apply this knowledge to conduct energy audits at home and understand how to conserve energy. This will lead to our feasibility study in the coming weeks.

Social Studies

Big Question: Why is it important to exercise our right to vote as United States citizens?

One Monday of this week, students will have in class time to work on their United States President Research Projects. The Background Information Page portion of this project is due this Friday, November 2nd. If students need an additional copy of this sheet, it can be found on the Social Studies page of the 5th grade wiki. The S.S. page also has links to many helpful websites centered around the presidents. The rest of the week we will study the history of voting; specifically, how certain groups of people struggled/fought for the right to vote, as well as when they received it. We will end the week with a discussion and simulation of the electoral college.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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